

A map of the Middle East with Iraq highlighted in yellow. The surrounding landmasses are light orange, and the bodies of water (Persian Gulf, Red Sea, and parts of the Mediterranean) are light blue.

Iraq Weekly Status Report

November 28, 2007

**Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
US Department of State**



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This report provides weekly updates in the eight key areas identified as pillars of U.S. government policy for victory in Iraq.

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Highlights

1. **Defeat the Terrorists and Neutralize the Insurgents**

President Bush and Iraqi PM Nuri al-Maliki have signed a declaration that paves the way for a possible long-term U.S. partnership with Iraq. U.S. and Iraqi officials said both countries would work towards extending the UN mandate that allows U.S. and Coalition troops to operate in Iraq for one more year.

2. **Transition Iraq to Security Self-Reliance**

U.S. Lt. General James Dubik reported that Iraq's security forces are improving but will not be ready to take control of as many provinces by the end of the year as the U.S. military had hoped.

3. **Help Iraqis to Forge a National Compact for Democratic Government**

On November 26, the Sadrist bloc and a few Shia and Kurdish legislators denounced a draft Deba'athification law that would ease restrictions on Sunnis in government services, dampening hopes of progress for the legislation aimed at promoting national reconciliation. The debate over enfranchising former members of Saddam's ruling Ba'ath Party has been a major obstacle to the ability of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's government to bring minority Sunnis into the political process and stem support for the insurgency.

4. **Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services**

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) will defy orders from Baghdad, by vowing to sign more contracts with international oil companies despite the national government's opposition. The Iraqi Minister of Oil Hussein Shahrstani has declared all KRG signed oil contracts null and void, saying that they have been signed illegally.



Highlights

5. Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy

The Trade Bank of Iraq (TBI) confirmed its launch of an important new series of training sessions for Iraqi ministries, after the success of the three day intensive training session sponsored by TBI in Istanbul this summer. The new series will implement unprecedented financial and legal training in an attempt to lead efforts to update Iraq's banking system.

6. Help Iraq Strengthen the Rule of Law

Iraqi Shiite and Kurdish MPs condemned the delay in carrying out the executions of "Chemical Ali" and two other convicted former officials of the Saddam Hussein regime November 26. While the execution order was originally given by an Iraqi court June 24, a legal battle concerning who has the authority to sign the orders is ongoing. Kurdish and Shiite deputies called for the executions to be carried out without further delay.

7. International Support for Iraq

Prime Minister Donald Tusk's Polish government will seek the approval of President Lech Kaczynski, the army's supreme commander, to send a final rotation of troops to Iraq in the first half of 2008 and then withdraw the remainder of its troops out of Iraq in summer 2008.

8. Strengthen Public Understanding of Coalition Efforts and Public Isolation of the Insurgents

Reuters reported that the Kurdistan Regional Government has said it will not allow news agencies to send journalists to interview members of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) at their bases near Iraq's northern border.



[1.] Defeat the Terrorists and Neutralize the Insurgency

Long-term Security Agreement:

- President Bush and Iraqi PM Nuri al-Maliki have signed a declaration that paves the way for a possible long-term U.S. partnership with Iraq. U.S. and Iraqi officials said both countries would work towards extending the UN mandate that allows U.S. and Coalition troops to operate in Iraq for one more year. Washington and Baghdad have also agreed to work towards then replacing the mandate with a U.S.-Iraqi security agreement.
- Iraqi Foreign Minister, Hoshyar Zebari, reported that the U.S. and Iraq are preparing to submit a request to the UN Security Council to extend the mandate for the U.S.-led Coalition. He said the resolution would refer to the willingness of the Iraqi government to engage in bilateral negotiations with the U.S. to reach a long-term security arrangement.

Iranian-Backed Terrorists Confess to Bombing:

- Four members of an Iranian-backed Shiite cell confessed to bombing a public market in central Baghdad, a U.S. spokesman said November 25. He also blamed Shiites for recent attacks on U.S. bases, raising fears that a three-month truce by the most feared Shiite militia may be at an end.
- "Based on subsequent confessions, forensics and other intelligence, the bombing was the work of an Iranian-backed special groups cell operating here in Baghdad," Rear Admiral Smith said, adding that he was not accusing Iran itself of ordering the blast.



[1.] Defeat the Terrorists and Neutralize the Insurgency

Improvement in Security and Stability of Diyala Province:

- Colonel David W. Sutherland, Commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division that is currently operating in Diyala province has reported significant security gains over the past 14 months.
- In May prior to Operation Arrowhead Ripper and the surge of troops in Diyala, there were 1,051 significant acts of violence, which included acts such as murders, kidnappings, and suicide attacks. By the end of October, there were 464 significant acts of violence reported. This is a drop of over 50% of significant acts in a province the size of Maryland, with over 1.6 million citizens.
- By November 20th, there were a little over 200 violent acts in the month. These improvements would not have been possible without the support and cooperation from the local citizens who reject the influence of extremist organizations. The surge enabled Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces to dominate the terrain and secure the population. It also helped the government to function properly and to begin focusing on reconstruction and essential services.
- The provincial government has active reconciliation initiatives, with more than 300 tribal leaders representing 19 major tribes signing the agreement. As a result of these reconciliation agreements, we've seen a drop in significant violent acts of over 68% throughout Diyala since the month of April.



[2.] Transition to Security Self-Reliance – Iraqi Security Forces

Iraq Security Force Improvement:

- ISF are improving but will not be ready to take control of as many provinces by the end of the year as the U.S. military had hoped, a top U.S. general said.
- Iraq has experienced a lull in violence in the past few months, allowing U.S. forces to plan and begin a gradual drawdown of troops that will see 20,000 leave Iraq by July 2008.
- The speed of withdrawals has been tied to improvements in Iraq's security forces, which Lieutenant-General James Dubik, the U.S. general in charge of training the nation's soldiers, described as good but mixed.

Concerned Local Citizens in Diyala:

- Colonel David W. Sutherland, Commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, reports approximately 3,000 concerned local citizens (CLCs) in Diyala have stood up against al-Qaida. The CLCs have assisted the Iraqi police by guarding roads and local infrastructure, and manning checkpoints throughout the province. They also provide Coalition forces (CF) and Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) with actionable information about weapons caches, locations of house-borne IEDs, vehicle-borne IEDs, deep buried IEDs, and are even pointing out known al-Qaida fighters.



[2.] Transition to Security Self-Reliance – Iraqi Security Forces

Iraqi Security Forces Detain 81 Suspected Extremists:

- ISF, assisted by CF, detained 81 suspected extremists and confiscated several weapons caches in Diwaniyah during Operation Lion Pounce from November 17-19.
- Major General Othman Ali Farhood, 8th Iraqi Army Div. Commander, highlighted the Iraqi Army's (IA) success by stating there have been no casualties or equipment damage associated with the operation to date.
- Major General Tadeusz Buk, Multi-National Division – Central South Commander, said Operation Lion Pounce was the first large-scale operation led by an IA general, who commanded not only IA Soldiers, but also Iraqi Police units. "The results of the operation show that it was well-planned and prepared," said General Buk.
- Shaykh Hussein al-Bderi, Chairman of the Provincial Security Committee, highlighted sound cooperation between local government, ISF and CF as key to the operation's success.



[2.] Transition Iraq to Security Self-Reliance – Iraqi Security Forces

Component	# Authorized	# Assigned ^a	# Trained
Ministry of Interior Forces ^b			
Police	239,209	238,681	171,840
National Police	33,670	30,605	35,777
Border Enforcement	38,205	37,712	30,472
Total Mol	311,084	306,998	238,089
Ministry of Defense Forces ^c			
Army	171,272	139,032	172,053
Support Forces ^d	16,700	14,172	15,449
Special Operations ^e	4,504	3,243	1,648
Air Force ^e	2,908	1,286	1,286
Navy	1,492	1,103	1,105
Total MoD	196,876	158,836	191,541
Total ^f	507,960	465,834	429,630

a Numbers in this chart are not the same as those present for duty.

b Ministry of Interior (Mol) police strength does not reflect non-deployed investigative and administrative Mol forces, the Mol HQ, Mol Forensics, Dignitary Protection or contracted guards. Mol authorized and assigned strength is derived from September 2007 Mol Human Resources data. Mol training strength is based on Coalition Police Assistance Transition Team (CPATT) Commander's Brief and Seven Day Tracker database as of 15 Oct 2007.

c MoD authorized personnel strengths are derived from Modified Tables of Organization and Equipment (MTOEs) as well as an MNF-I Commanding General suggested, Prime Minister directed 120% increase in manning levels for combat units. Assigned personnel strengths are derived from 15 Sep 2007 Iraqi Director General of Pay and Budget data. MoD training figures are as of 15 October 2007 and are derived from data provided by Coalition Military Assistance Transition Team (Army and Support Forces), Counter-Terrorism Transition Team (Special Operations), Navy Transition Team (Navy), and Coalition Air Force Transition Team (Air Force).

d Recategorization of support entities may result in disparate numbers in next report.

e Air Force Trained represents graduates from technical school pipeline.

f There is a 15%-25% attrition per year across Army and Police Forces.



[3.] Help Iraqis to Forge a National Compact for Democratic Government

Shia Legislators Denounce Draft Deba'athification Law:

- On November 26, the Sadrist bloc and a few Shia and Kurdish legislators denounced a draft Deba'athification law that would ease restrictions on Sunnis in government services, dampening hopes of progress for the legislation aimed at promoting national reconciliation. The debate over enfranchising former members of Saddam's ruling Ba'ath Party has been a major obstacle to the ability of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's government to bring minority Sunnis into the political process and stem support for the insurgency.

Prominent Shiite Politician Given Bill of "Good Health":

- One of Iraq's leading Shiite politicians, Abdel Aziz al-Hakim, returned from Iran November 19 after undergoing treatment for a tumor, a statement from his party said. The Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council (SIIC) said Hakim was now "in good health." "The doctors told me that I have completed all the stages of the treatment and I have recovered," the statement quoted Hakim as telling Iraqi leaders.

Hakim Visits US, Meets with POTUS:

- President Bush met Iraqi Shiite leader Abdel Aziz al-Hakim at the White House November 27 to discuss the importance of starting formal negotiations about a long-term relationship between the two countries, the improving security situation, and "the tribal awakening" -- the meeting of Sunni and Shiite groups from areas that have seen some of the worst sectarian violence in the past.



[3.] Help Iraqis to Forge a National Compact for Democratic Government - **Iraqi National Unity Government**

						(F) = Female * Vacant
Deputy President Tariq al-Hashimi		President Jalal Talabani	Deputy President 'Adil 'Abd al-Mahdi			
Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih		Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki	Deputy Prime Minister Salam al-Zawba'i			
Minister of Agriculture Ali al-Bahadeli	Minister of Communications Muhammad Tawfiq Allawi	Minister of Culture *	Minister of Defense Abdul Qadir Muhammed Jasim	Minister of Displacement & Migration Abd al-Samad Rahman Sultan	Minister of Electricity Karim Wahid	
Minister of Education Khudayyir al-Khuza'i	Minister of Environment Narmin 'Uthman (F)	Minister of Finance Bayan Jabr	Minister of Foreign Affairs Hoshyar Zebari	Minister of Health Saleh al-Hasnawi	Minister of Higher Education Abd Dhiyab al-Ajili	
Minister of Human Rights Wijdan Mikha'il (F)	Minister of Industry & Minerals Fawzi al-Hariri	Minister of Interior Jawad al-Bulani	Minister of Justice Safa al Safi (acting)	Minister of Housing & Construction Bayan Daza'l (F)	Minister of Labor & Social Affairs Mahmud Muhammad Jawad al-Radi	
Minister of Oil Husayn al-Shahristani	Minister of Planning Ali Baban	Minister of Trade Abd al-Falah al-Sudani	Minister of Science & Technology Ra'id Fahmi Jahid	Minister of Municipalities & Public Works Riyad Ghurayyib	Minister of Transportation *	
Minister of Water Resources 'Abd al-Latif Rashid	Minister of Youth & Sports Jasim Muhammad Ja'far	Minister of State for Civil Society Wijdan Mikha'il (acting)	Minister of State for National Dialogue Affairs Akram al-Hakim	Minister of State for National Security Affairs Shirwan al-Waili		
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rafi Hiyad al-Isawi	Minister of State for Governorates Affairs *	Minister of State for Tourism and Antiquities *	Minister of State for Women's Affairs Fatin Abd al-Rahman Mahmud (F)	Minister of State for CoR Affairs Safa al-Safi		
UNCLASSIFIED						



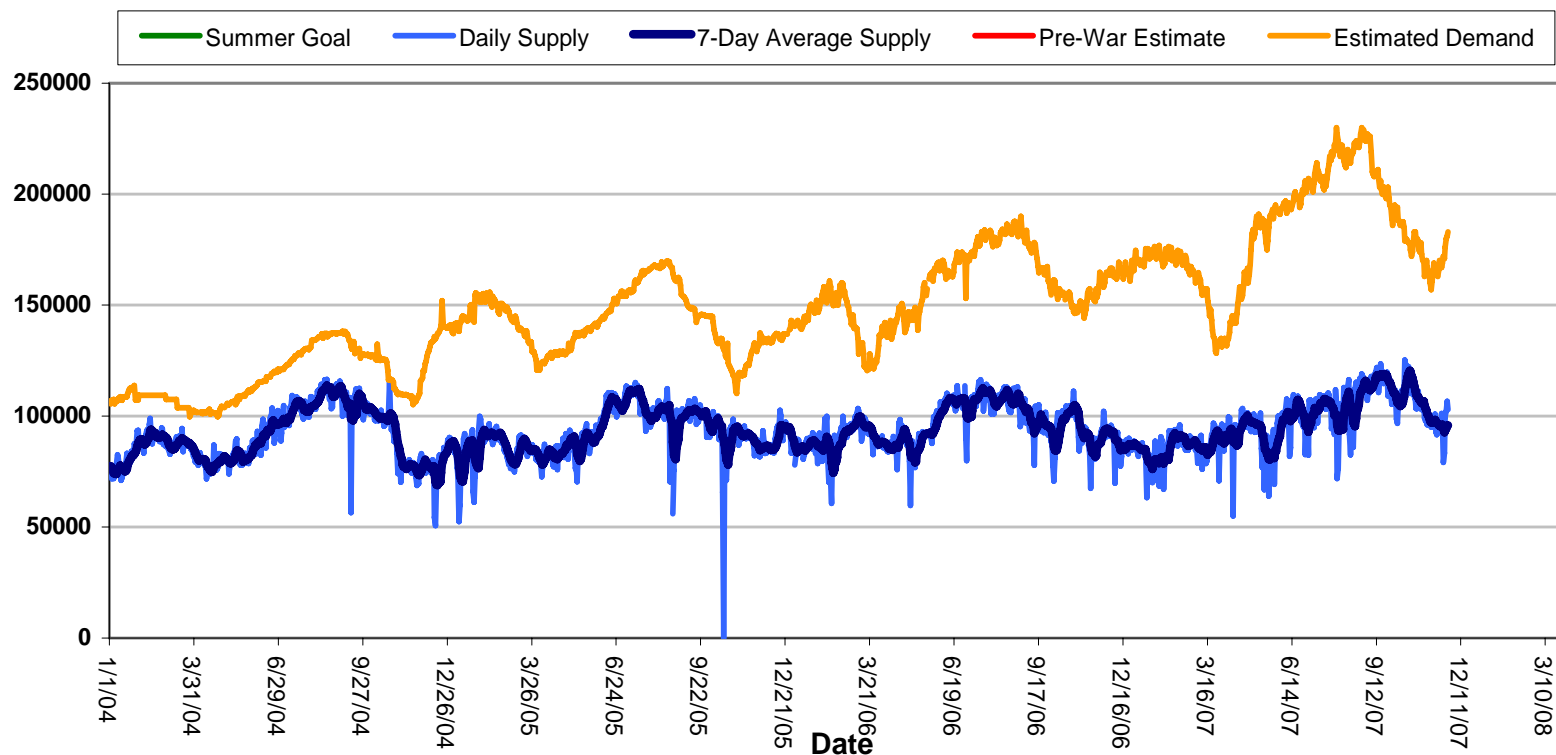
[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – Financials from Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) 1 and IRRF 2

Sector	Allocated	Un-Allocated	Committed			Obligated			Disbursed		
			Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
Security and Law Enforcement	\$4,985	\$20	\$4,966	\$4,964	-\$2	\$4,963	\$4,961	-\$2	\$4,837	\$4,836	\$0
Justice, Public Safety and Civil Society	\$2,264	\$44	\$2,247	\$2,256	\$9	\$2,243	\$2,243	\$0	\$2,120	\$2,121	\$1
Electricity Sector	\$4,201	\$25	\$4,054	\$4,058	\$4	\$4,047	\$4,048	\$0	\$3,596	\$3,605	\$9
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,714	\$11	\$1,602	\$1,600	-\$2	\$1,602	\$1,600	-\$2	\$1,546	\$1,544	-\$2
Water Resources and Sanitation	\$2,084	\$18	\$1,971	\$1,971	\$0	\$1,971	\$1,971	\$0	\$1,728	\$1,733	\$5
Transportation and Communications	\$454	\$3	\$450	\$450	\$0	\$450	\$450	\$0	\$375	\$376	\$1
Roads, Bridges and Construction	\$332	\$1	\$322	\$323	\$1	\$322	\$323	\$1	\$236	\$236	\$0
Health Care	\$813	\$10	\$784	\$784	\$0	\$775	\$775	\$0	\$703	\$706	\$3
Private Sector Development	\$821	\$2	\$819	\$819	\$0	\$819	\$819	\$0	\$801	\$801	\$0
Education, Refugees, Human Rights, Governance	\$426	\$10	\$421	\$421	\$0	\$421	\$421	\$0	\$389	\$389	\$0
Admin Expense (USAID, STATE)	\$213	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0	\$208	\$208	\$0
Total	\$18,306	\$143	\$17,846	\$17,856	\$9	\$17,823	\$17,820	-\$3	\$16,539	\$16,555	\$17
IRRF II Non-Construction	-	-	\$7,913	\$7,911	-\$1	\$7,910	\$7,909	-\$1	\$7,573	\$7,574	\$1
IRRF II Construction	-	-	\$9,414	\$9,425	\$11	\$9,393	\$9,391	-\$2	\$8,450	\$8,465	\$15
IRRF II Overhead	-	-	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$515	\$515	\$0
IRRF I Total	\$2,475	\$0	\$2,291	\$2,291	\$0	\$2,232	\$2,232	\$0	\$2,139	\$2,139	\$0
Grand Total IRRF I & II	\$20,781	\$143	\$20,137	\$20,147	\$9	\$20,055	\$20,053	-\$3	\$18,678	\$18,694	\$17

[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – Electricity Overview



Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004



- For November 20-26 daily electricity demand was 12% above the same period in 2006. Daily supply from the grid was 14% above the year-earlier period and met 54% of total electricity demand, compared with 58% for the year-earlier period.
- Average hours of power via electricity grid after meeting demand from essential services: Baghdad 8.7 and nationwide 11.7. Year-ago levels were Baghdad 6.9 and nationwide 11.0.



[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – **Provision of Essential Services**

Oil:

- Media reports November 27 stated that the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) will defy orders from Baghdad, by vowing to sign more contracts with international oil companies despite the national government's opposition. Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani told reporters in Irbil, "The (regional) government will continue with the contracts and they will be implemented. No one can cancel any contract of the KRG signed with foreign companies." The Iraqi Minister of Oil Hussein Shahrstani has declared all KRG signed oil contracts null and void, saying that they have been signed illegally. Meanwhile, the KRG has inked 15 exploration and export contracts with 20 international companies since it passed its own law in August.



[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – **Provision of Essential Services**

Electricity:

- An electric turbine station was launched November 26 at al-Tobah oil depot (50km west of Basrah) with a capacity of 18.5 mw and a cost of approximately \$100,000. The Director General of the SOMO, Jabbar Allaibi said, "The importance of this station is in providing continuous power for the oil depot in order to aid in dispensing electrical services which would maintain stability of export energy." This the third turbine of its kind put in place by SOMO and should aid electrical stations dependent on a continuous supply of oil.

Transportation:

- Mosul airport is set to reopen and will carry flights soon for pilgrims on their way to Saudi Arabia. Four years after being converted into a U.S. military base, Mosul International Airport will soon reopen for civilian flights. Ninewah Governor Darid Muhammed Kashmolo reported that preparations are underway to reopen the airport and the inaugural flight will carry pilgrims to Saudi Arabia. Iraqi Airways is currently updating the airport's construction and equipment, including the terminals, watchtowers and other facilities.



[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – **Government Capacity**

Kirkuk:

- The prices of black market regular and blended benzene increased from 500 to 600 Iraqi Dinar. Power production remained stable for the reporting period, with the national grid supplying 12 hours of electricity per day to Kirkuk city residents (80% of the Province's population). Citizens in other areas received less, especially in Hawijah which saw only 4 hours per day. Kirkuk residents received 10-12 hours of water per day, while consumers outside the city received 4-12, with amounts varying depending on the area.

Karbala/Najaf/Qadisiyah:

- Provincial Reconstruction Teams in the region report that reconstruction work continues to progress. As an example, street paving around a local school in Diwaniyah, at a total cost of 1.15M Iraqi Dinar is about 34% complete.

Baghdad:

- More than 264 local government officials and staff received training in performance measurements, budgeting for local governments, management, computer skills, and other key governance skills.



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Oil Update and Job Creation

Oil Update:

- Crude oil price averages in world markets for the week ending November 23 closed with the following prices:
 - Basrah Light at \$89.162/ barrel
 - WTI Cushing at \$97.685/ barrel
 - Dated Brent at \$94.56/barrel
 - Oman/Dubai at \$88.596/barrel

Employment Update:

Employment Program	Iraqis Last Week	Iraqis This Week	% change
Gulf Region District (GRD) IRRF (Includes MILCON/OMA)	22,450	22,450	0.00%
US Agency for International Development (USAID) (ESF)	79,847	79,847	0.00%
Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP)	2,889	2,889	0.00%
Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I)	6,908	5,295	-23.35%
GRAND TOTAL	112,094	110,481	-1.44%

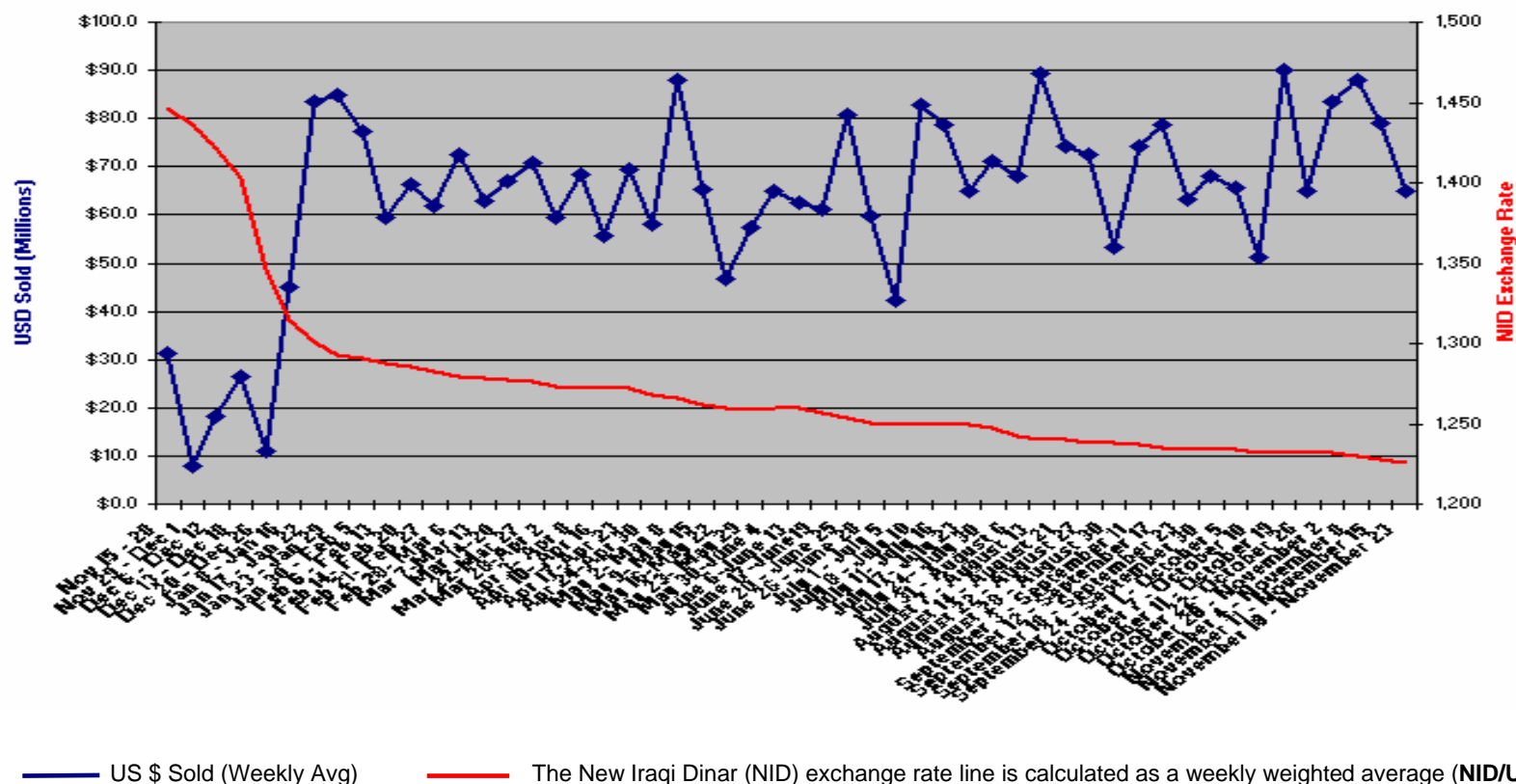


[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy - Banking Sector

Central Bank's US Dollar (USD) Currency Auction:

- The following table shows volume sold of and exchange rates for USD in the Iraqi currency auction since April. Since September, the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) has slowly appreciated the dinar, as suggested by the IMF, in an effort to rein in inflation. These policies have begun to bear fruit, as overall year-to-date inflation is 8.8%, which projects a pace well below the IMF annual target of 25%. The tendency for accelerated price increases in the last three months of the year remains a concern, however. The CBI will likely continue its appreciation of the Iraqi Dinar and maintain interest rates to fight further inflationary pressure.

Central Bank of Iraq
USD Currency Auction: October 29, 2006 – November 23, 2007



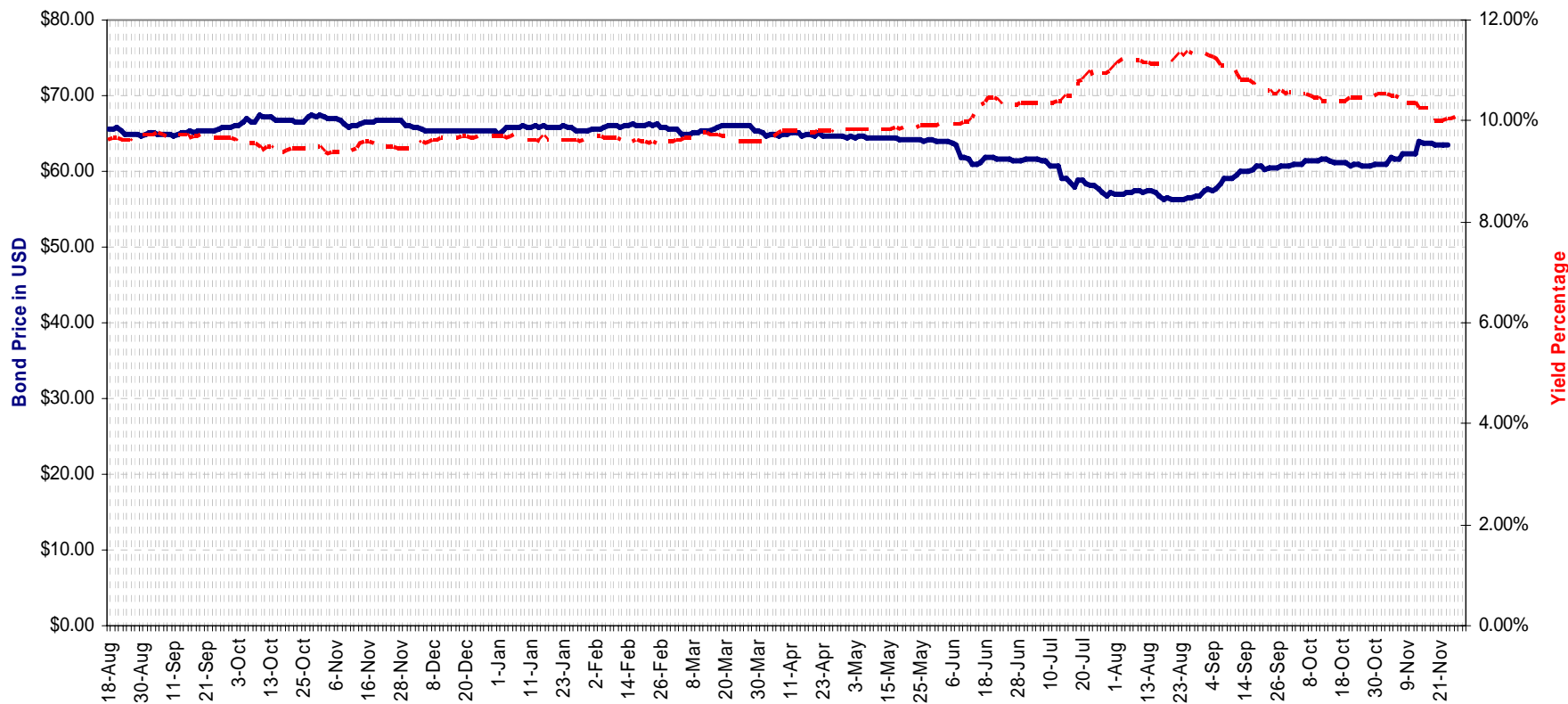


[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Securities Markets

Trading of Iraqi Bonds on the International Secondary Bond Market:

- The following table shows the daily bond resale price and yield on Iraqi bonds issued January 20. The bonds were originally issued to approximately two-thirds of Iraq's commercial creditors as part of a debt exchange arrangement as per Paris Club terms. Iraq's commercial debt was approximately \$22 billion before the debt-swap arrangement. The bonds, which are not yet rated, will mature in 2028.

Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales
August 18, 2006 - November 23, 2007



Trading High = \$73.98 (January 24)

Trading Low = \$64.66 (August 30)



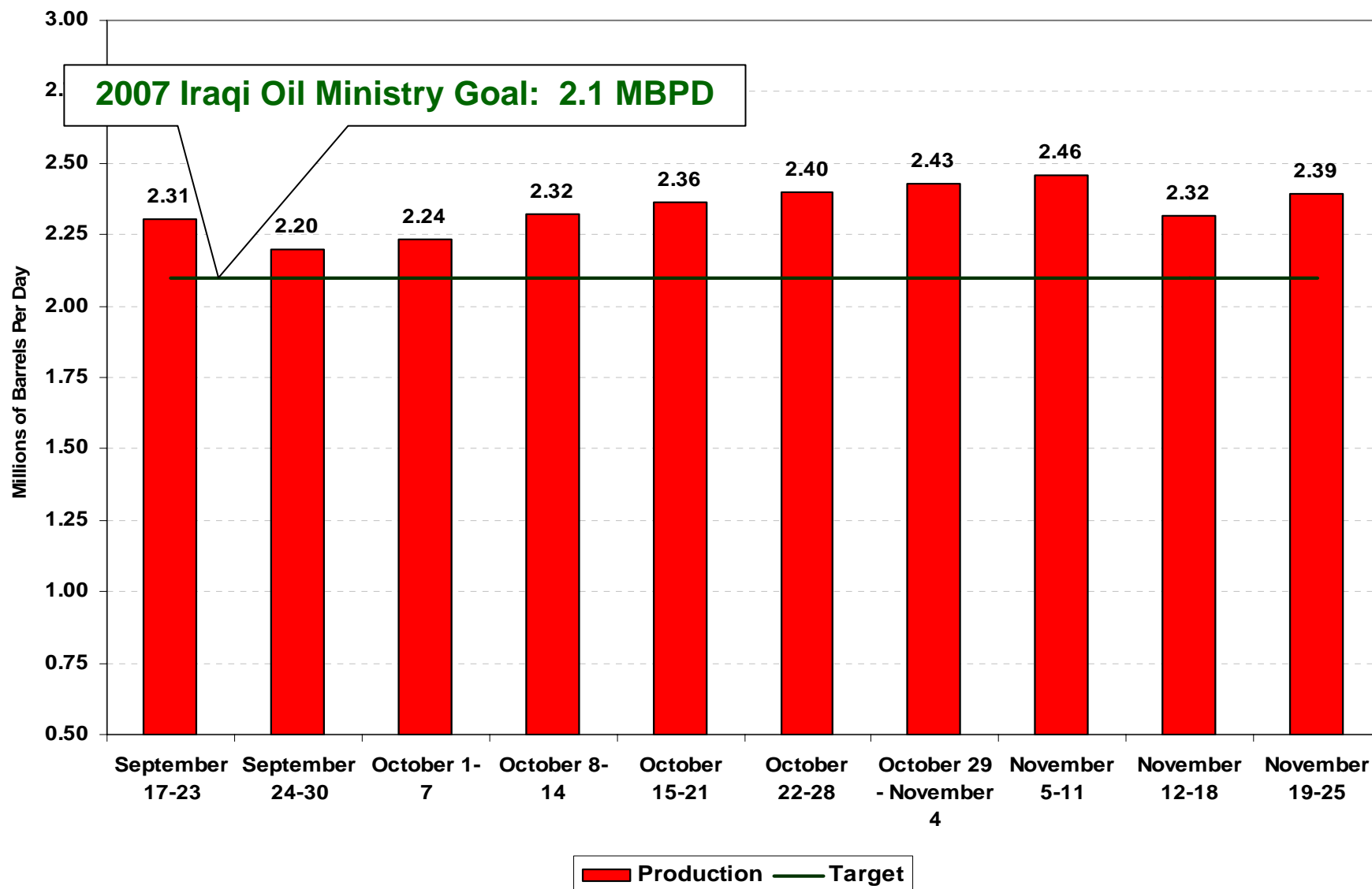
[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Economic Events

Trade Bank of Iraq Holds Training Sessions for Iraqi Ministries:

- The Trade Bank of Iraq (TBI) confirmed its launch of an important new series of training sessions for Iraqi ministries, after the success of the three day intensive training session sponsored by TBI in Istanbul this summer. The new series will implement unprecedented financial and legal training in an attempt to lead efforts to update Iraq's banking system. Hussein al Uzri, chairman of TBI said, "We are proud to be the full sponsor of vital training events, the results of which should make a big contribution towards improving Iraq's adherence to the latest international standard practices." At TBI's training conference in August, 35 representatives from the major importing Iraqi ministries attended and were trained by professionals from JP Morgan Chase and Dallal & Associates Law Firm.

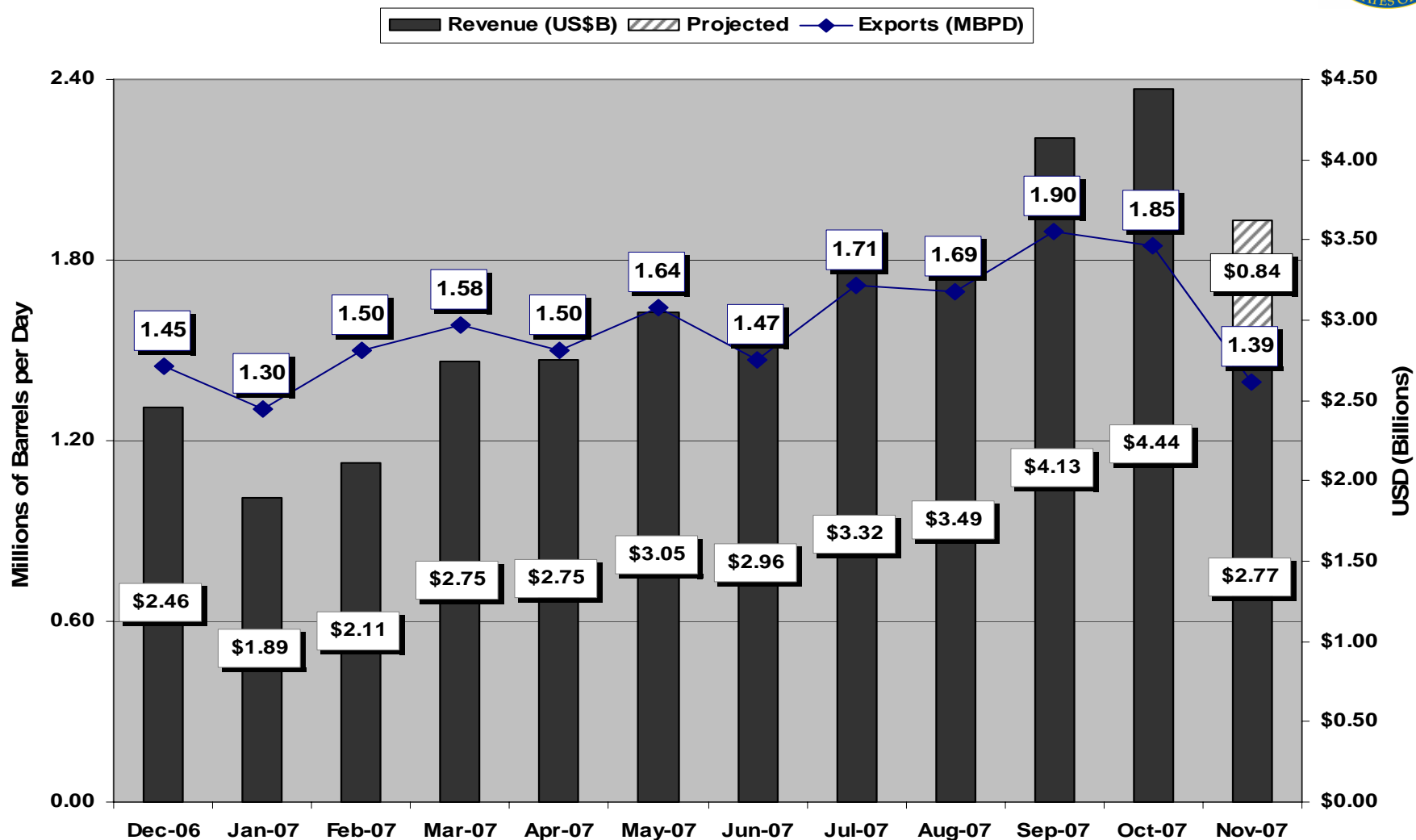


[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Crude Oil Production





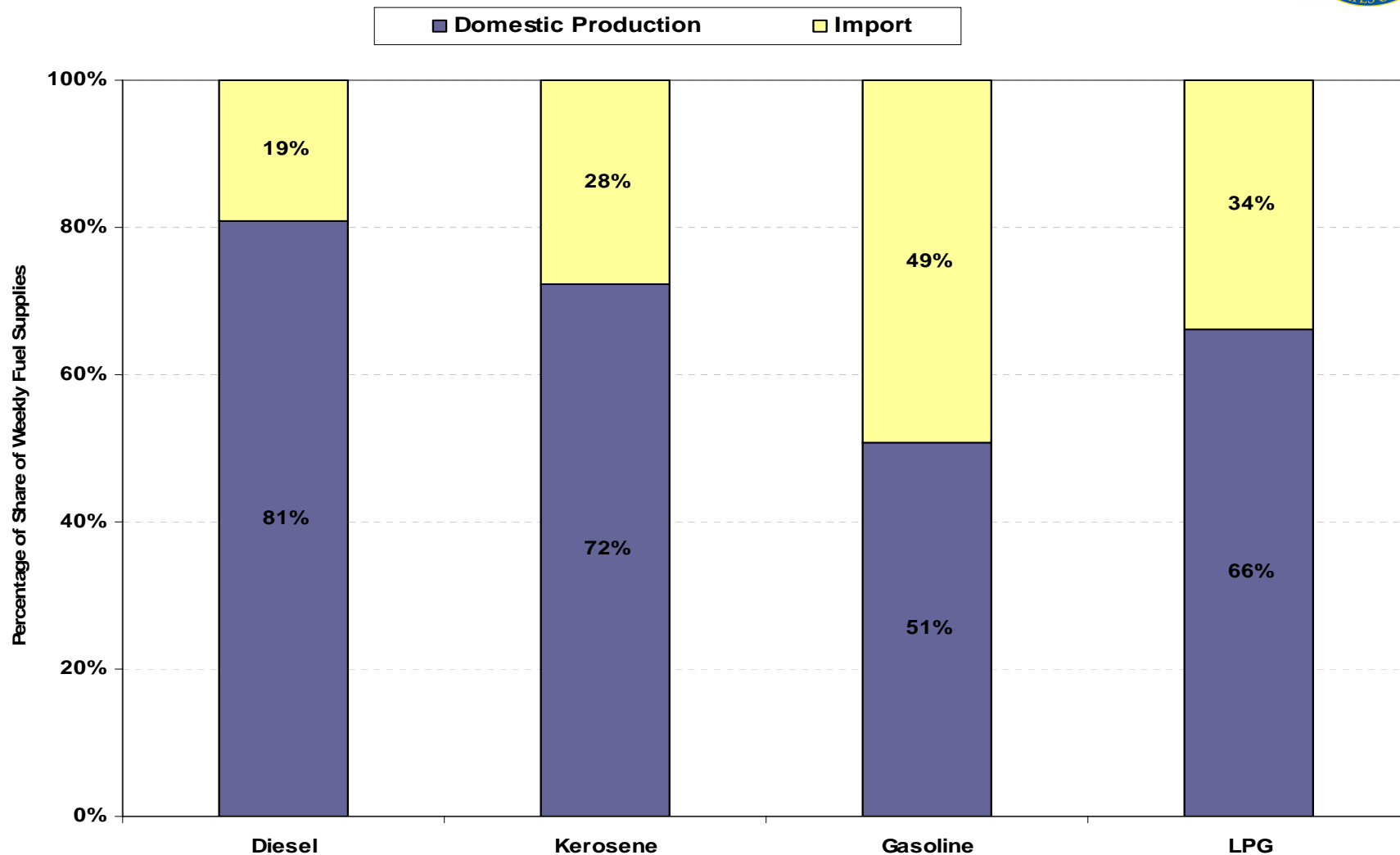
[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Crude Oil Export



- 2006 Revenue Estimate: \$31.3 Billion
- 2007 Revenue Estimate: \$33.8 Billion (Year to Date)



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies

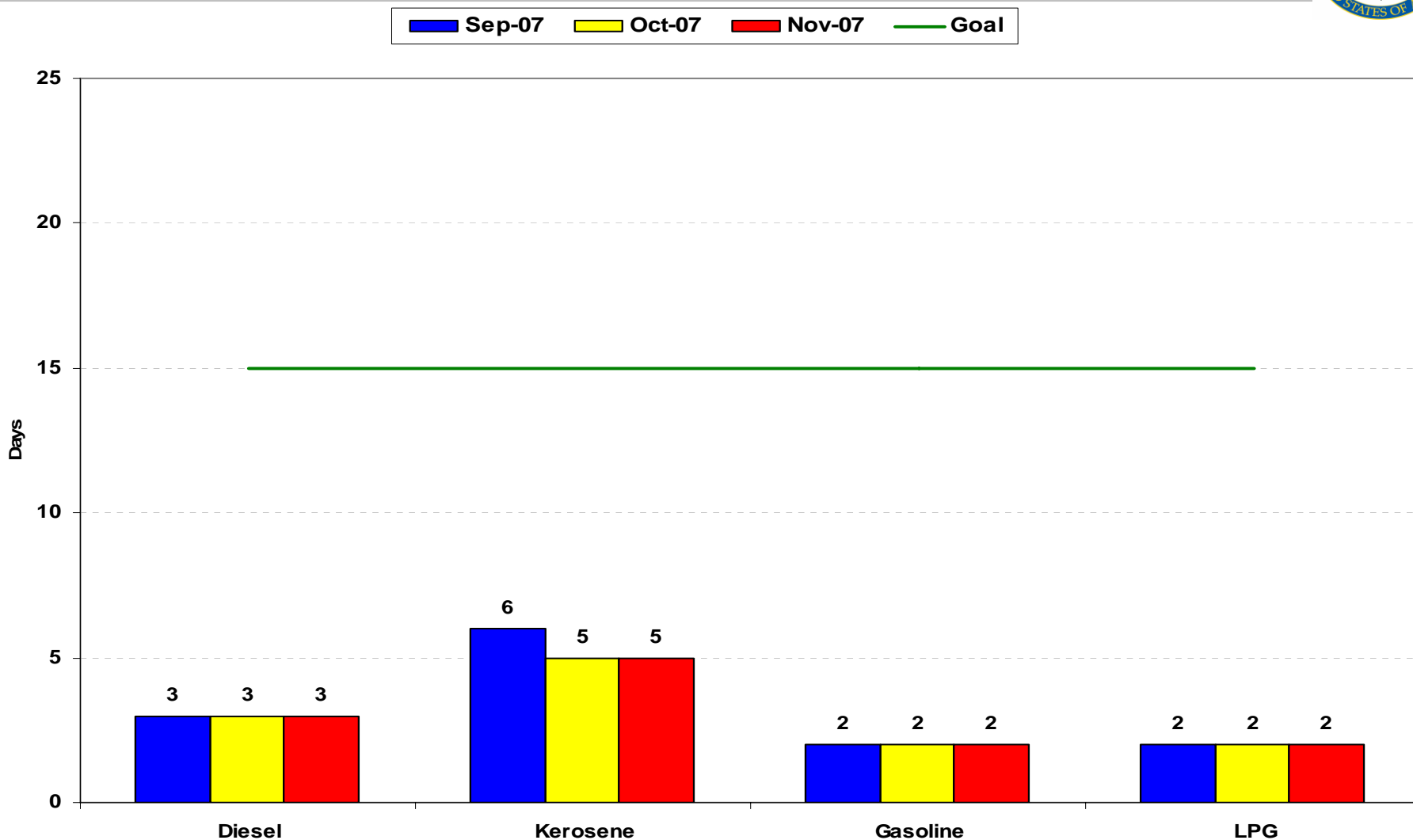


Note: This is a daily average for November 19 – 25

- Diesel: 11.5 ML supply of 24.5 ML target
- Kerosene: 5.8 ML supply of 14.6 ML target
- Gasoline: 13.6 ML supply of 26.8 ML target
- LPG: 3,317 tons supply of 5,100 tons target



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – National Stock Levels



- The goal is to have on hand 15 days supply of all refined products, calculated on the basis of maximum consumption over the year and not adjusted for seasonal variation. The numbers given above are monthly averages.



[6.] Help Iraq Strengthen the Rule of Law and Promote Civil Rights— Rule of Law

Iraqi Members of Parliament Condemn Delays in Executing Saddam Aides:

- Iraqi Shiite and Kurdish MPs condemned the delay in carrying out the executions of "Chemical Ali" and two other convicted former officials of the Saddam Hussein regime November 26. Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as Chemical Ali for using poison gas against the Kurds, Sultan Hashim al-Tai, Saddam's defense minister, and Hussein Rashid al-Tikriti, his armed forces deputy chief of operations, were initially sentenced to death by an Iraqi court June 24. However, the executions have been delayed due to a legal battle over who (PM Maliki's government or the Iraqi Presidential Council) should have the ability to physically sign the order. Kurdish and Shiite deputies called for the executions to be carried out without further delay.
- Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki did not want the executions to go ahead during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which ended October 15, because of the outcry that followed Saddam's hanging during another Muslim holiday. And because two members of the presidential council -- President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, and Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi, a Sunni -- have refused to sign the execution orders, the sentences have yet to be carried out.



[7.] Increase International Support for Iraq – **Developments**

Poland to Seek Approval for Additional Troop Rotation:

- Prime Minister Donald Tusk's government will seek the approval of President Lech Kaczynski, the army's supreme commander, to send a final rotation of troops to Iraq in the first half of 2008 and could pull the remainder of its troops out of Iraq in summer 2008. President Kaczynski, who has to sign off on any government decision to bring troops home, has spoken out against withdrawing Poland's troops from Iraq.

Australian PM Confirms Troop Reduction:

- Prime Minister John Howard's nearly 12 years in power ended November 24 when he was ousted in elections by Labor Party leader Kevin Rudd. Prime Minister elect Rudd confirmed he intends to pull 550 Australian combat troops from Iraq in a phased withdrawal, however Mr. Rudd emphasized the core role of the U.S. in Australian foreign policy, with a need to keep troops for training in a conversation with President Bush following his election victory.



[7.] Increase International Support for Iraq – Contributors to Iraqi Stability Operations

28 Countries with forces in Iraq (including U.S.)

Albania	Denmark	Korea	Romania
Armenia	El Salvador	Latvia	Singapore
Australia	Estonia	Lithuania	Slovakia
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Macedonia	Slovenia
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Japan	Moldova	Tonga
Bulgaria	Kazakhstan	Mongolia	Ukraine
Czech Republic		Poland	United Kingdom

TOTAL ~ 11,589 Forces

33 Countries and NATO* (including the U.S.) **Support Iraqi Stability Operations**

*33 includes the U.S., the 27 countries listed above, and six non-MNF-I countries: Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Turkey

Note: Fiji and New Zealand, participating as a part of the UN mission in Iraq, are not included.



[8.] Strengthen Public Understanding of Coalition Efforts and Public Isolation of the Insurgents – **Developments**

KRG Blocks Media Access to the PKK:

- Reuters reported that the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has said it will not allow news agencies to send journalists to interview members of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) at their bases near Iraq's northern border. The KRG blames media reports for exacerbating the ongoing tensions with Turkey, which has positioned 100,000 troops on the Iraqi border ready for possible incursions.

Controversy Over Claim that Gunmen Slaughter 11 Relatives of Iraqi Journalist:

- Dia al-Kawwaz, an Iraqi journalist who operates an electronic news website, claimed that gunmen in Baghdad killed 11 of his family members.
- Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh denied the killings and said the journalist's family was safe in Baghdad. "There was no physical liquidation of any member of his family," Dabbagh told reporters.

Voices of Iraq Enters its Fourth Year:

- The independent news agency Voices of Iraq (VOI) entered its 4th year today, confident to continue its steps in boosting independent information in Iraq. Three VOI journalists have been killed while performing their duties this year.



Iraq Weekly Status – General Information

- This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.
- Please forward all questions and/or comments to:
NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov



Notes and Source Citations (1 of 3)

Slide 5:

- November 27 – Financial Times - <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/fd933c14-9c4e-11dc-bcd8-0000779fd2ac.html>
- November 25 - (AP - http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071125/ap_on_re_mi_ea/iraq;_ylt=AmGBB0.kno.atjadYQAt_8RvaA8F)

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- November 24 - MNF-I Press Briefing - http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=15448&Itemid=131

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- November 26 - (Reuters - http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071126/ts_nm/iraq_dc)
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- DoD Input to Iraq Weekly Status Report November 28, 2007

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- November 26 - http://yorkdispatch.inyork.com/yd/nationworld/ci_7561832
- November 19 - http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20071119/wl_mideast_afp/iraqpoliticshealthhakim_071119212533;_ylt=AIM2QOuUV7bo7zQChDsSq4OaOrgF

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- NEA Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov

Slide 12:

- ITAO Weekly Report, November 28, 2007

Slide 13:

- POC Department of State, NEA-I ASSIST, 202-647-9815
- The chart shows average daily power production in megawatt hours (MWh). 120,000 MWh goal equates to 20 hours at 6000 MW average supplied load or 24 hours at 5000 MW average supply load.

Slide 14:

- November 27 – (AFP), <http://www.iraqupdates.com/scr/preview.php/article/24417>
- November 27 – (Voices of Iraq), <http://www.iraqupdates.com/scr/preview.php?article=24404>

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- November 27 – (Voices of Iraq), <http://www.iraqupdates.com/scr/preview.php?article=24407>

Slide 16:

- PRT Weekly Summary November 16-22, 2007 (Kirkuk, Baghdad, Karbala/Najaf/Qadisiyah)



Notes and Source Citations (2 of 3)

Slide 17:

- Oil Prices are sourced from Bloomberg

Employment Update:

- Information regarding the Employment Update was sourced from the ITAO Weekly Report – November 21, 2007.

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- Department of State, NEA-I-ECON, 202-647-9885

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- Iraqi Bond Prices are sourced from Bloomberg

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